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FEBRUARY 26.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty persons present.

The following were presented for publication :—

“On an Ammonite from the Carboniferous formation of Texas,”
by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

“The Tertiary Geology of Eastern and Southern United States,” by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

Messrs. Geo. W. Fiss and Francis E. Emory were elected members.

Distoma and Filaria.—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to some parasitic worms presented this evening. Some of these were supposed to be leeches from the mouth of the alligator. Herodotus states that the crocodile of the Nile has the inside of its mouth always beset with leeches. The existence of the leech has been confirmed, and is known as the *Bdella nilotica*. The present specimens, however, do not belong to a leech, but pertain to a species of *Distoma*, apparently not previously described. It may be named and be distinguished by the characters as follows :—

DISTOMA ORICOLA. Body elongated elliptical, moderately wider and thicker posteriorly, and ending in a blunt, angular extremity, convex dorsally and flat ventrally, unarmed, smooth or minutely wrinkled transversely. Mouth subterminal, and enclosed with a reniform lip succeeded by a linear annulus. Acetabulum large, globular, included at the anterior fourth of the body, and opening ventrally by a conspicuous central aperture. Generative orifice ventral, at the posterior fourth of the body. Length, 15 to 20 mm.; breadth, 3 mm. Eight specimens obtained from the mouth of the alligator, *A. mississippiensis*, in Florida, by Mr. Stuart Wood.

Accompanying the specimens is a fragment of the tongue marked with circular scars, apparently due to the worms. The alcoholic specimens in their present condition are incurved, with the lateral margins inverted, and the included acetabulum produces a conspicuous dorsal eminence.

Of several *Filaria* exhibited, two, a female and a male, pertain to the species *Filaria horrida*, Diesing. The former is 28 inches long, the latter 11 inches. They were obtained by Dr. Henry C. Chapman, from the thorax of the American ostrich, *Rhea americana*. The other specimens were obtained by Mr. P. L. Jouy, from the abdomen of *Strix brachyotus*. They consist of four females from 12 to 14 inches long and a half a line thick, and two males $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and one-fourth of a line thick.

They are thicker anteriorly with the head end obtusely rounded, and with the mouth minute and bounded by a minute pair of conical lips. The tail end of the female is straight and blunt; that of the male is more tapering, and is included in an elliptical alary appendage, supported on each side by a row of five curving ribs. A pair of similar, but shorter and straight papillæ is situated near the anal aperture; and a pair of pointed processes diverge from the end of the tail into the alary expanse.

Two species of *Filaria* have been previously observed in *Strix brachyotus*, *F. attenuata* Rud., and *F. foveata* Schn., to neither of which the specimens under examination appear to belong. These, however, so closely accord with the descriptions of *F. labiata* Creplin, from the black stork, *Ciconia nigra*, that, notwithstanding the remote relationship in the host, the speaker believed them to belong to that species. In the construction of the caudal extremity of the male, they closely approximate the condition of *F. labiata* and *F. horrida*, as represented in the figures of Schneider (Monographie der Nematoden), while they are widely different from that of *F. attenuata* and *F. foveata*, as represented in similar figures of the same work.

Some notes on Manayunkia speciosa.—Prof. H. Carvill Lewis read a communication from Miss S. G. FOULKE, in which the following statements were made:—

In the worm *Manayunkia speciosa*, described and figured by Prof. Leidy (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1883), the tentacular crown, or branchial organ, is the feature of special interest.

According to Dr. Leidy, the tentacles present in an adult are eighteen in number, besides two larger and longer tentacles situated midway between the two lophophores. These larger tentacles are conspicuous by their bright green color, and are, in fact, external continuations of the blood-vessels extending lengthwise throughout the body. In shape, these tentacles taper from base to apex, are convex on the outside, but concave on the side which faces the centre of the tentacular crown; so that a transverse section would present the shape of a crescent. The two edges thus formed are fringed with cilia. When closely watched, the green tentacles are seen to pulsate with a rhythmical motion, contracting and expanding longitudinally. The pulsation takes place in each tentacle alternately.

At the moment of contraction the tentacle turns slightly on its axis, outwards and towards the end of the lophophore on that side, at the same time giving a backward jerk, returning to its former position at the moment of expansion.

By force of the contraction, the green blood filling the tentacle is forced downwards out of the tentacle, and flows along the blood-vessel on that side of the body. On the expanding of the tentacle, the blood instantly returns and suffuses it, and thus the process goes on.